



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington Birthplace National Monument
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George Washington Birthplace - News Release

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George Washington Birthplace Celebrates the Washington Family Christmas

Join the staff and volunteers of George Washington Birthplace National Monument on Tuesday, December 27, 2011, to celebrate a Washington Family Christmas. The event will run from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm.

Colonial Virginians joyously celebrated the 12 days of Christmas-- a period of feasting that began on Christmas Day and culminated on Twelfth Night which is the day associated with the three Wise Men arriving in Bethlehem to adore the infant Jesus. While this period was widely celebrated in Virginia, New England's "Puritans" thought these celebrations were not in keeping with their more religious view of Christ's birth.



Memorial House illuminated with candle lanterns

The Washington family might have held or taken part in festivities that traditionally included feasting, drinking, games, fireworks, dancing, and music at home or in the homes of nearby family and friends. It was not uncommon to trim a house for the season with door wreaths and garlands made of local greenery. On long, cold winter evenings, candlelit windows welcomed guests to the festivities within.

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George Washington loved music, dance and festive occasions. This year our seasonal celebration will take place on the Third Day of Christmas.

The event will feature a variety of living history demonstrations, and the Memorial House will be decorated for the holidays. Volunteers and staff will be in period clothes and will demonstrate seasonal activities and crafts season such as cooking, blacksmithing, music making and more. In addition, programs starting at 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. will detail the four most important Christmas's of George Washington's life.

The event will also feature a candlelight illumination of the historic are along with caroling around the birth site (weather permitting beginning at 6 p.m.)



Living history demonstrations by park volunteers

Ginger snaps and hot cider will be served in the Visitor Center starting at noon until supplies last.

The park does not charge an admission fee. George Washington Birthplace National Monument is located on Route 204, 2 miles off of Route 3, 38 miles east of Fredericksburg, VA and 11 miles west of Montross, VA. Additional information about

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George Washington Birthplace National Monument is available by phone at (804) 224-1732 or on the web at www.nps.gov/gewa.